

## Message Text

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ORIGIN COME-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 OES-03 DLOS-03 L-02 H-01

CG-00 DOTE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 CIAE-00 INR-05

NSAE-00 RSC-01 IO-10 SS-15 NSC-05 /072 R

DRAFTED BY COMM/NMFS:JCPRICE:OES/OFA:WLSULLIVAN:LK

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D/LOS:MR. ESKIN

L/OES:MRS. WEST

H:MR. MACKENZIE

EUR/CE:MR. HEICHER

----- 126685

R 201658Z DEC 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, PLOS, XP, GW, MX, US

SUBJECT: FISHING OPERATIONS BY WEST GERMAN VESSELS  
IN EASTERN PACIFIC

REF: COPENHAGEN 6223

1. EMBASSY REQUESTED VERIFY NEWSPAPER REPORTS REFTEL, INCLUDING PLANS OR POTENTIAL FOR FRG FISHERY OFF US WEST COAST. IF THERE ARE ANY SUCH PLANS OR POTENTIAL, EMBASSY REQUESTED TAKE FOLLOWING ACTION.

2. EMBASSY SHOULD COMMUNICATE CONCERN WITH WHICH USG  
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WOULD VIEW THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ANY NEW FOREIGN FISHERY

OFF THE US WEST COAST. IN SO DOING, EMBASSY SHOULD EMPHASIZE NEGATIVE EMOTIONAL ASPECTS RESULTING FROM INCREASED FOREIGN EFFORT IN THIS AREA AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO 200 MILE LEGISLATION IN U.S. CONGRESS. EMBASSY SHOULD ALSO STRESS SERIOUS BIOLOGICAL SITUATION NOW CURRENT WITH RESPECT TO MANY IMPORTANT WEST COAST FISHERIES STOCKS, AND THE CONSEQUENT ADVERSE BIOLOGICAL EFFECT ANY NEW FISHERY WOULD LIKELY CREATE.

3. THERE IS AN INCREASING AMOUNT OF SCIENTIFIC DATA WHICH INDICATES THAT NUMEROUS STOCKS OF FISH OFF CERTAIN

AREAS OF THE UNITED STATES WEST COAST ARE OVERFISHED OR APPROACHING A STATUS OF OVERFISHING. THESE STOCKS INCLUDE MOST MAJOR GROUND FISH STOCKS AND HERRING IN THE EASTERN BERING SEA (INCLUDING POLLOCK, COD, SHRIMP, SOME FLOUNDERS, BLACK COD, AND HALIBUT), PACIFIC OCEAN PERCH AND HALIBUT IN THE GULF OF ALASKA, HAKE AND PACIFIC OCEAN PERCH OFF WASHINGTON AND OREGON, AND CALIFORNIA SARDINES AND PACIFIC MACKEREL OFF CALIFORNIA.

4. THE UNITED STATES IS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED WITH THE MAINTENANCE OF THE NORTH AMERICAN SETLINE FISHERY FOR HALIBUT. THE UNITED STATES WOULD VIEW WITH GREAT CONCERN ANY FISHERY BY THE FRG WHICH FURTHER DISTURBED THIS HALIBUT FISHERY. IN RECENT YEARS THE YIELD FROM EASTERN BERING SEA AND NORTHEASTERN PACIFIC HALIBUT STOCKS HAS BEEN DECLINING AND THE RESOURCE HAS NOT RESPONDED TO RESTRICTIONS PLACED ON NORTH AMERICAN SETLINE FISHERMEN. THESE FISHERMEN HARVESTED ONLY 200,000 POUNDS OF HALIBUT IN 1973 WITH 7 VESSELS, COMPARED WITH 11 MILLION POUNDS HARVESTED BY 104 VESSELS IN 1963. THERE IS GROWING EVIDENCE THAT MORTALITY INDUCED BY THE INCIDENTAL CAPTURE OF HALIBUT IN TRAWLS IS A MAJOR CAUSE OF THE DECLINE IN THE PRODUCTIVITY OF THIS RESOURCE. THE UNITED STATES IS ALSO CONCERNED WITH THE DECLINE OF PACIFIC OCEAN PERCH ABUNDANCE THROUGHOUT THE GULF OF ALASKA, AND BELIEVES THE EXPLOITABLE BIOMASS OF PACIFIC OCEAN PERCH IN THE VANCOUVER AND COLUMBIA REGIONS TO BE AT VERY LOW LEVELS. FURTHERMORE, THE UNITED STATES NOTES WITH INCREASING CONCERN THE GROWING COMPETITION FOR THE ALLOWABLE CATCH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF PACIFIC HAKE, WHICH THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES TO BE FULLY EXPLOITED.

5. LEVEL OF FOREIGN EFFORT OFF THE U.S. WEST COAST IS BEING CLOSELY WATCHED BY U.S. FISHERMEN AND MANY CONCERNED SEGMENTS OF U.S. PUBLIC. THE DETERIORATION OF MANY OF THE FISHERY RESOURCES OF THE EASTERN BERING SEA AND NORTHEASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN REQUIRES POSITIVE ACTION.

THE U.S. BELIEVES THAT A SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTION IN THE PRESENT ALL-NATION FISHING EFFORT ON AN AREA-BY-AREA, FISHERY-BY-FISHERY, AND SEASON-BY-SEASON BASIS IS NECESSARY TO TREAT THE PROBLEMS OF DECLINING ABUNDANCE OF VARIOUS TARGET SPECIES, INCIDENTAL CATCHES OF NON-TARGET SPECIES, AND GEAR CONFLICT. ADDITION OF ANY NEW PARTICIPANTS IN WEST COAST FISHERIES, EVEN AT A VERY LOW LEVEL OF EFFORT, WOULD GENERATE EXTREMELY NEGATIVE REACTION. CONTINUING EFFORTS BY THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH TO ARGUE EFFECTIVELY AGAINST PASSAGE OF 200 MILE LEGISLATION BY CONGRESS IS DEPENDENT TO A LARGE EXTENT ON DEMONSTRAT-

ING THAT FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ISSUES ARE BEING HANDLED WITH AT LEAST A MINIMAL DEGREE OF SUCCESS PENDING LOS OUTCOME. ADDITION OF NEW EFFORT TO BELEAGUERED U.S. WEST COAST FISHERIES WOULD DO MUCH TO DESTROY CREDIBILITY OF THIS CLAIM, THEREBY INCREASING CHANCES OF FAVORABLE ACTION ON 200 MILE LEGISLATION BY CONGRESS. MANY LEADERS IN RECENT SENATE FAVORABLE VOTE ON 200 MILE LEGISLATION WERE FROM WEST COAST, INCLUDING SENATORS MAGNUSON, JACKSON, AND STEVENS.

6. THE ONLY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE EAST COAST SITUATION WITH WHICH FRG OFFICIALS FAMILIAR (STATE 241087 AND 270354 NOTAL) AND THE WEST COAST SITUATION IS THAT LATTER CATEGORIZED BY FAR FEWER NATIONS PRESENTLY INVOLVED AND CONSEQUENT HIGHER EMOTIONAL STATE OF AMERICAN FISHERMEN ABOUT NEW PARTICIPANTS. THUS ENTRY INTO FISHERY OF F/VS NOT FISHING THERE BEFORE WILL HAVE INFLUENCE FAR OUT OF PROPORTION TO NUMBER OF VESSELS ON CHANCES EARLY PASSAGE OF 200 MILE LEGISLATION BY NEW CONGRESS. ACCORDINGLY, WHILE FRG HAS RIGHT UNDER EXISTING INTERNATIONAL LAW TO ENTER THE FISHERIES OFF THE WEST COAST OF THE US, IT WOULD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BE MUCH PREFERABLE IF THEY DO NOT DO SO AT THIS TIME. KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

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